



## Action & Family Council Meeting

Action & Family Council Members

Date: December 12, 2023

Time: 6pm to 7:40pm

### Attendees

Council members present: Cindy Rice, Barbara McElmurry, Tangela Oliver, M Stalls, Lori Longueville, Victoria Taylor, Deanna Davis, Alessandra Nicholson, Natalie Juhl, Denasha Oliver, Jacey Caudle, and Sydney Pollard

Council members absent: Sonya Clark, Keosha Engram, Colleen McLaughlin, Sheridan Johnson, Kathy Swafford, Sandy Snowden, Breanna Puckett-Woods, Micole Larry, Kimberly Myers, Breanna Kobus, Amanda Sullivan, Sarah Inboden, Lindsay Baskin, Keeshia Carr, Patty Davis, Tracie Griffith, Denise Henry, Sheryl Houston, NaTasha Felton, Van Ikner, Donna Middleton, Kim McCombs, and Mikayla Wade

### Agenda

1. Welcome: Zena welcomed everyone to our meeting tonight and went over the agenda for the evening. Introduced Linda to share Group agreements with everyone.
2. Group agreements: Linda reviewed the group agreements with everyone.
3. Icebreaker: Linda presented a PowerPoint presentation and had everyone share which kind of "giver" they are according to the 4 options...Mr. Ebenezer Scrooge, Mr. Grinch, Sweet Cindy Lou Who, and Gently Used Giver. Everyone shared and enjoyed getting to know each other.
4. Zena proceeded to share her screen and have everyone read and review our smart goals for the three recommendations that each work group has been working on and to provide feedback.

#### Recommendation #1 feedback:

*"Support regional efforts to create a comprehensive and readily available online resource directory and referral platform."*



- ❖ Various Council Members discussed ways to get information across to everyone in our Region.
- ❖ Lori Longueville shared website project development info in the works through the Southern Illinois Coalition for Children & Families, which will be our Region's resource directory hub. The project is in process and will go through several steps to ensure its quality and reliability.
- ❖ It was mentioned that perhaps "we" should attend developmental stage meetings.
- ❖ Council Member mentioned perhaps a TV, texting, advertisement type of marketing campaign to get the word out throughout our Region.

#### **Recommendation #2 feedback:**

*"Increase staffing, training, and equipment for programs to provide care and education for children with diagnosed or suspected disabilities."*

- ❖ Council Member mentioned that in Murphysboro School district she has had to advocate for her children, or they would have been left behind.
- ❖ It was mentioned we attend planned events in each County/school to be able to share resources.
- ❖ Council Member mentioned sharing information through pediatricians' offices, health care facilities, entities where families go to often...
- ❖ Offer/host parent meetings to offer resources/partner with other entities.

#### **Recommendation #3 feedback:**

*"Increase efforts to expand licensed family child care networks that include a diversified workforce and supply funding, technical assistance, and support to get them established in smaller rural communities offering more choices to families."*

- ❖ Council Member suggested that perhaps we can have someone write a rap song about the field of child care to be able to share with everyone/marketing tool.
- ❖ It was mentioned to contact the Business Development office to partner.
- ✓ Zena mentioned that as we go into next year, the focus will be on mental health. The State has launched a survey. All counties need to complete it to have representation and we ask for your support. The link was shared in the chat as well and it will be emailed to everyone.
- ✓ Zena also mentioned that we were interviewed along with our Family Council Member, Sonya, by a local TV show—The Spiel, and shared the interview clip for everyone to watch during the Zoom meeting.



- ✓ Zena thanked everyone for their attendance and feedback. We will be in touch with information for our next meeting. Zena wished everyone happy holidays.

### **Before the next meeting...**

- Complete mental health survey